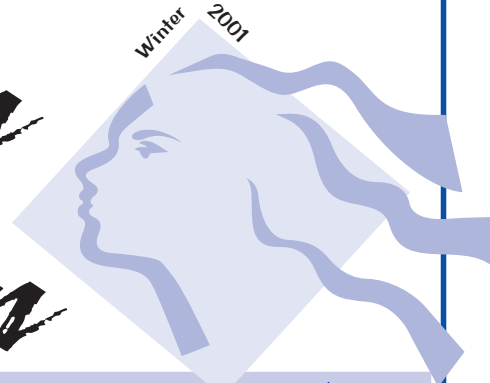


# Michigan Women

A Publication  
of the  
Michigan  
Women's  
Commission

Winter 2001



◆ GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR NANETTE REYNOLDS ◆  
◆ CHAIRWOMAN ANNE NORLANDER ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARTHA TRUSCOTT ◆

## Lieutenant Governor Posthumus named to lead Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force created by Governor Engler

In October, Governor Engler appointed a Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force charged with the awesome task of eliminating deaths related to domestic violence. The Women's Commission, along with other state agencies such as the Family Independence Agency, the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan State Police, and the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, together with the chairman, Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus, will convene for the next six months and submit a report to the Governor with recommendations on eliminating domestic violence homicides.

As Chairman of the Task Force, Posthumus will continue the crusade against domestic violence which he took up nearly ten years ago. "As former Senate Majority Leader, I had the privilege of working on and approving much of the legislation that passed in recent years to stop domestic violence and strengthen penalties for abusers," Posthumus said. "Still, more needs to be done. We need to continue working toward eliminating the presence of domestic violence incidents in Michigan."

### The mission of the task force is:

- To explore effective strategies, practices, and policies and to recommend actions that will improve our efforts to better respond to domestic violence and to ultimately eliminate domestic violence homicides;
- Identify services or practices that will aid in our homicide prevention efforts;
- To recommend any legislative changes to accomplish the above goals.



### COMMISSIONERS

Anne Norlander, Chairwoman — Battle Creek • Lynn Aronoff — Royal Oak • Judith Garland, Vice Chair — Mount Pleasant • Kaye Grubba — Owosso • Inez Heller Jones — Muskegon • Myrah Kirkwood — Detroit • Dawn Koehler — Royal Oak • Tammy McDonough — Beaver Island • Melanie Myers — Lathrup Village • Judith Schwalbach — Escanaba • Carolyn Spencer — Northville • Martha Thuemmel — Port Austin • Joyce Watts — Allegan

### EX OFFICIO

Maura Campbell — Consumer & Industry Services • Maria Candy — Family Independence Agency • Deanna Hopkins — Civil Service • Kathy Weller — Education

### STAFF

Martha Truscott, Executive Director • Amanda Girth Sural, Program & Outreach Specialist • LuAnn Maurer, Executive Secretary • Pamela Abbey, Student Assistant

# Commissioner's Corner...

**T**his October, I was honored when Governor Engler appointed me Vice Chairwoman of the Michigan Women's Commission. It is with excitement I join with Chairwoman Anne Norlander as we embark on this mission together!

Like many of us, I wear several hats—I am the chief executive officer of a non-profit organization, community activist, wife, mother and grandmother. I choose the organizations I am involved with carefully, and I am pleased to be a part of this Commission which works tirelessly to accomplish its mission to improve the quality of life for Michigan women. Having witnessed some of the obstacles that keep women in roles of dependence both financially and emotionally, I tremendously value the role this Commission plays in providing a service for women to learn about resources and options.

My interests lie with issues such as education, quality child care, health, and financial security past retirement for women. I am very excited about the Prosperity Institute for Michigan Women, sponsored in partnership by the Michigan Women's Commission and the Michigan Department of Treasury that will be held in June 2001. This program is designed to educate women from every walk of life about making financial choices and the path to financial independence—from balancing a checkbook to managing an investment portfolio.



**Judy Garland**  
Vice Chairwoman

I look back at the work of the Commission in 2000; raising awareness to GHB, rape drugs and other women's health issues, domestic violence prevention, raising the profile of the MWC, and others, yet I also look forward as the Commission contemplates what lies on the horizon for the new year.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**What:** The Prosperity Institute for Michigan Women...a daylong seminar designed to inform and educate women about opportunities to develop greater personal financial stability. Women in all stages, situations, and walks of life can get practical tips and answers related to money management issues

**When:** June 1-2, 2001

**Where:** Cobo Center, Detroit

**A cooperative effort by the Michigan Department of Treasury and the Michigan Women's Commission.**

**MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW  
THE SPRING 2000 NEWSLETTER!**

## Welcome new Commissioners!

Governor Engler made two new appointments to the Michigan Women's Commission. Inez Heller Jones, of Muskegon, was appointed to replace Claire Corriveau, of Hersey, and Tammy McDonough, of Beaver Island, was appointed to replace Carol Northcott, of Rogers City.

Welcome Inez and Tammy!

IN

## GHB Update

Commissioners have been traveling the state, warning communities about the dangers of GHB and other rape and club drugs. Chairwoman Anne Norlander participated in forums at Western Michigan University and Mott Community College and Vice Chairwoman Judy Garland participated at a similar forum at Central Michigan University. Other forum participants included Judi Clark, whose 15-year-old daughter died after GHB was slipped into her drink, Jane Abraham, wife of Senator Spencer Abraham, and Jim McBryde, Special Assistant for Drug Policy at the Michigan Department of Community Health. In addition, Commissioner Kaye Grubba raised the issue of rape drugs and rave parties to her local paper which resulted in a full-page cover story outlining the problem.

The Michigan Women's Commission would be pleased to address any group on this topic. When possible we also include experts from the field in our presentation. Please contact the office at (517) 373-2884, if you are interested in a speaker.

## Women and Agriculture

Saturday, February 10, 2001,  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Erickson Kiva & MSU Museum

Aimed at young women, this day of programs explores the expanding new roles and experiences of women in agriculture today.

Registration: \$15 prior to January 5; \$20 thereafter; lunch included. Pre-registration is encouraged. For more information, please call (517) 432-7632 or the Michigan Women's Commission at (517) 373-2884



## MWC Recognizes Amazing Woman... Marylou Olivarez Mason

Marylou Olivarez Mason, executive director of the Michigan Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs was honored as one of two Mujer Award winners from the National Hispana Leadership Institute Board of Directors. The Mujer awards recognize the sustained lifetime achievement of Hispanic women who have served the Hispanic community and exemplifies the philosophy and values of justice, integrity, inner peace, commitment, vision and deep pride in their culture and community.

Ms. Mason was born in San Antonio, Texas and came to Michigan with her

family as a migrant farm worker and after a number of years the family settled in Saginaw, Michigan. She graduated from St. Joseph High School and obtained her nursing degree from Saginaw school of nursing. After many years in the nursing profession, she started her work with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights as the assistant to the District Director of the Saginaw Community Relations Bureau. Ms. Mason obtained a job with the Commission of Spanish Speaking Affairs in March of 1986, and was appointed as the Commission's first female director in August 1986. Since that

time, Ms. Mason has been involved with many organizations and projects and received a number of prestigious awards. In 1998, she was one of 27 Hispanics selected by the Mexican government to attend a Mexico/United States summit, and was one of the 40 women from the United States to participate in a Women's Summit in Mexico City. Ms. Mason has received the Diana Award from the Greater Lansing YWCA, an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Great Lakes College in Saginaw, and the Richard Letts, Hugo Lundberg Award for demonstrating and encouraging the elimination of

prejudice and discrimination and to advance the cause of human rights in the Lansing community. Ms. Mason is involved with the Michigan Educational Opportunity Fund, the Cristo Rey Community Center Board of Directors, the Capitol Area United Way, and the United Way of Michigan, to name just a few. She is married to George Mason, retired Assistant Attorney General, and has five children and fourteen grandchildren.

The Michigan Women's Commission is proud to salute Marylou Olivarez Mason for her leadership for Hispanic women all across America!



# Election 2000 results for the women of the Michigan House of Representatives

- ▼ 54 women ran for 48 House seats
- ▼ 27 women were elected (14 Democrats and 13 Republicans)
  - ◆ 23 candidates were incumbents
  - ◆ 4 women won open seats
- ▼ 21 men won seats in which women were also candidates
  - ◆ 5 were open seats
- ▼ There were previously 30 seats held by women
  - ◆ 5 were lost to male candidates
  - ◆ All were open seats
- ▼ There were 5 seats in which there were 2 women running against each other
  - ◆ 22 women ran against men

*Congratulations to the women elected to the Michigan House of Representatives!*

Members	Party	District
Artina Tinsley Hardman	D	3
Mary Waters*	D	4
Irma Clark	D	11
Triette Reeves	D	13
Laura Toy	R	19
Gloria Schermesser	D	25
Jennifer Faunce	R	29
Janet Kukuk	R	33
Gilda Jacobs	D	35
Nancy Quarles	D	36
Nancy Cassis	R	38
Patricia Godchaux	R	40
Ruth Johnson	R	46
Rose Bogardus	D	47
Vera Rison	D	48
Paula Zelenko*	D	50
Patricia Lockwood	D	51
Ruth Jamnick	D	54
Judith Scranton	R	66
Gretchen Whitmer*	D	70
Susan Tabor	R	71
Joanne Voorhees	R	77
Mary Middaugh	R	80
Patricia Birkholz	R	88
Barb Vanderveen*	R	89
Julie Dennis	D	92
Sandy Caul	R	99

\*new members

# MWC Commends Governor Engler for Signing Drug Bills into Law

The Michigan Women's Commission applauded Governor John Engler for signing into law several pieces of legislation that penalize people who manufacture and possess Gamma Butyrolactone (GBL) and Methamphetamine.

Public Acts 302 and 304 of 2000 sponsored by State Reps. Jennifer Faunce (R-Warren) and Mike Kowall (R-Waterford/White Lake Twps.) make the possession and manufacture of GBL, the main chemical ingredient used by rapists in making the drug GHB, a felony. GHB can be slipped into an unsuspecting woman's drink rendering her defenseless to her attacker. Ingesting the drugs can result in unconsciousness, vomiting, seizures, coma, and even death. The crime carries a two-year penalty and up to 20 years if the chemical is used in conjunction with a rape or criminal sexual act. This measure gives law enforcement the tools need to crack down on criminals who insist on making illegal drugs.

An additional drug of this kind is methamphetamine. Meth is a volatile stimulant that comes in a powder, chunk, or clear form. When snorted for smoked, meth produces a dramatically increased energy level and the ability to go without food or sleep for extended periods of time. The drug is highly addictive and can cause paranoia, hallucinations, violent behavior, nerve damage, depression, and death.

Public Act 314 of 2000 sponsored by Sen. John Schwartz, M.D. (R-Battle Creek) increases penalties for the manufacture, possession, and use of methamphetamine. In addition, the law makes it illegal to operate a clandestine laboratory to manufacture drugs. For an information brochure on the dangers of methamphetamine and other drugs, please contact the Michigan Women's Commission at (517) 373-2884.

## Check out our new web site!

Visit [www.mdcr.com/mwc](http://www.mdcr.com/mwc) to learn more about the Michigan Women's Commission. Log on to view Commissioner profiles, media releases, the 1999 annual report and the strategic plan. Also, the Women's Resource Directory is now online. Search by county for government agencies, employment/education resources, family services, substance abuse services and victim assistance resources. Coming soon our publications will be available for immediate downloading!

Please check out our site periodically for updates, new information and upcoming surveys on women's issues!

# November is Adoption Awareness Month

Governor John Engler declared November Adoption Awareness Month in Michigan, a time to take stock of the important work done by adoptive families and to help citizens understand the needs of children waiting for adoptive families. "Michigan is a national leader in providing public sector adoption services," said Governor Engler. "In 1999 Michigan's public and private adoption agencies set a new state record with 2,417 finalized adoptions." Engler said that the state of Michigan helps match more state wards to adoptive homes each year, but more needs to be done.

In Michigan more than 19,000 children live in foster care and about 4,200 have adoption as their identified goal. Many of these children are considered special needs children if they are physically or mentally handicapped,

part of a sibling group needing to be placed together, of minority birthright, or older (not an infant). Adoption is

the child welfare system more times than they care to remember. "While some will be adopted by foster parents or relatives, many

Independence Agency and private child placing agencies throughout the state are working under a mantra that there is no such thing as an "unadoptable" child," Howard said.

Parents considering adoption should know adoption laws and services have changed significantly over the last 30 years. "You don't have to be married, childless, rich or own a house to adopt," said Howard. "You have to have a big heart, provide and stable, loving home and be able to help your adoptive child work through issues raised by their past history of abuse and neglect." Vicky Landsman Peterson, an Adoption/Foster Care Recruiter for Oakland Family Services echoed this statement. "Adoptive parents only need a big heart, patience, and a lot of flexibility" she said.

To find out more about kids who need a loving home, log on to the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange at [www.mare.org](http://www.mare.org), contact your local Family Independence Agency office, or contact private adoption agencies in your community. For a referral to your local FIA office, please call (517) 373-2035.

necessary to provide these children with a happy, healthy, and bright future.

Adoptive parents in Michigan give stability to children, many who have lived most of their lives in this temporary situation and have moved within

others are still waiting for a family to love and care for them," said Family Independence Agency director Douglas E. Howard, whose agency oversees public sector adoption efforts. Advocates from the Family

## Maurer joins Commission staff

The Michigan Women's Commission is pleased to welcome LuAnn Maurer as the new executive secretary. Prior to working with the Commission, LuAnn was the administrative assistant to the director of State Government Affairs in the Governor's Office. She has 17 years combined experience in the legislature and the Governor's Office. Her legislative days began in 1983 with Senator Ed Fredricks of Holland. She later joined the staff of Senator Jack Welborn of Kalamazoo. In both offices she assisted with secretarial and scheduling support. In 1990 she joined Governor Engler's staff, working in the Operations Division, External Affairs and then in State Government Affairs.

An active member of the Lansing community, LuAnn led a support group for abused women for five years at her community church, serving over 350 women, and she is currently the Director of Women's Ministries.

LuAnn joins the staff with the administrative expertise needed to assist the executive director and the Commission. She also shares a passion to serve women and carry out the MWC mission: to improve the quality of life for Michigan women!



## Exciting Internship Opportunity

**T**he Michigan Women's Commission is seeking dedicated and hard-working applicants enrolled at a college or university for an internship at the commission executive office in Lansing. Duties include responding to constituent inquiries, preparing publication orders, writing speeches, letters, and newsletter articles, updating the Women's Resource Directory, and other special assignments. An internship at the MWC can offer experience in a fast paced office environment and knowledge of the workings of state government. If you are interested in an internship at the MWC please contact us at (517) 373-2884 or fax a cover letter and resume to (517) 335-1649.

## Announcing a new domestic violence brochure

**T**he Michigan's Women's Commission has partnered with the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, the Family Independence Agency and the Michigan Department of Community Health to publish a new domestic violence brochure. Please call the MWC at (517) 373-2884 to add your name to our waiting list for the new brochure containing useful information about domestic violence and how to seek help.

## January is Birth Defect Prevention Month

**W**hile not all birth defects can be prevented, there are some steps you can take to lower the risk.

- ▼ Take a daily vitamin containing 400 micrograms of folic acid to reduce the chance of spinal cord and brain defects
- ▼ Eat a healthy diet, including fresh fruits and vegetables
- ▼ Avoid raw or undercooked meats or fish
- ▼ Follow the Michigan Fish Advisory if you eat Great Lakes fish
- ▼ Do not handle soiled cat litter
- ▼ Be sure to have regular medical check-ups and discuss your medical and family history with your physician

Listen during the month of January for public service announcements on birth defect prevention, brought to you by the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Michigan Women's Commission.

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**(517) 373-2884 fax: (517) 335-1649**  
**[www.mdcr.com/mwc](http://www.mdcr.com/mwc)**

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## Women's Commission Publications



**Club Drugs: What you should know**



**Club Drugs: What you and your kids should know**



**GHB: A vicious scam. A proven killer (For bodybuilders)**



**Methamphetamine**



**Watch out for rape drugs**



**1999 Women's Resource Directory**

**To order publications, call  
(517) 373-2884**

### Mailing List Update

**If your name or address needs to be changed on our newsletter mailing label, or if you receive duplicates, please mail or fax the correct information (along with our current label) to the address or fax number listed below. Thank you.**

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